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For Immediate Release**FCC LOOKS TO BAR ENTITIES OF NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERN
FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMISSION'S EQUIPMENT
AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM*****Commission Proposes Removing Untrustworthy Actors from Participating in the Testing and Certification of Electronic Devices for the U.S. Market***

WASHINGTON, May 23, 2024—The Federal Communications Commission today proposed new rules to ensure that wireless equipment authorizations are not compromised by entities that have been found to pose national security concerns. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted today will launch a proceeding to ensure that telecommunications certification bodies (TCBs) and measurement facilities (test labs) that participate in the Commission's equipment authorization program, which authorizes wireless devices for marketing in or importation to the United States, are not influenced by untrustworthy actors. This new proceeding would permanently prohibit entities on the FCC's Covered List from playing any role in the equipment authorization program while also providing the FCC and its national security partners the necessary tools to safeguard this important process.

The FCC prohibits authorization of communications equipment that has been determined to pose an unacceptable risk to national security. These rules place significant responsibilities on entities to which the Commission has delegated important responsibilities for authorizing wireless devices, namely TCBs and test labs. Today's action, announced jointly earlier this month by FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and Commissioner Brendan Carr, seeks to ensure that the FCC's equipment authorization program meets the challenges posed by persistent and ever-changing security and supply chain threats and those entrusted with administering are trustworthy.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposes a 10% threshold for any lab or TCB with direct or indirect ownership or control by any entity on the Covered List and a 5% reporting threshold. It also seeks comment on whether and how the Commission should consider national security determinations made in other Executive Branch agency lists in establishing eligibility qualifications for FCC recognition of a TCB or a test lab in our equipment authorization program.

Earlier this month, the FCC formally [requested](#) input from nine federal partners on test labs with apparent ties to the government of the People's Republic of China. This request was sent to the Bureau of Industry Security of the Department of Commerce, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Defense, Department of Justice, Federal Acquisition Security Council, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, National Counterintelligence and Security Center of the Office of Director of National Intelligence, and National Security Agency.

The FCC's equipment authorization program reviews wireless devices prior to marketing in or importation to the United States to ensure they abide by all FCC requirements, including those

relating to national security concerns. The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology oversees the program through which test labs collect radiofrequency data for each device and TCBs certify that equipment complies with Commission requirements.

Action by the Commission May 23, 2024 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 24-58).
Chairwoman Rosenworcel, Commissioners Carr, Starks, Simington, and Gomez approving.
Chairwoman Rosenworcel, Commissioners Carr, Starks, and Gomez issuing separate statements.

ET Docket No. 24-136

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*